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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 497  
By McNally

A RESOLUTION relative to the erection of memorials to  
commemorate the terrorist attacks of September  
11, 2001.

WHEREAS, the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001 constitute a tragic event unlike any other in United States history and represent a defining moment in the lives of many diverse generations of American citizens; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has responded with an outpouring of unity, including the resolve to end the threat of terrorism by diplomacy and military force; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has opened the discussion about an appropriate national memorial; and

WHEREAS, Oak Ridge, Tennessee was established during World War II to answer a national crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge High School Student Council has proposed an idea to memorialize the victims of the attacks on a national basis by using pieces of steel from the World Trade Center Towers rubble to create memorial displays in every cooperating high school in the country; and

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WHEREAS, the memorial displays would also include a plaque with an inscription that describes the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and testifies to the strength of the American spirit; the inscription would close with: "May these remnants inspire the people of the world in the advance of freedom and the destruction of evil."; and

WHEREAS, this proposal by the Oak Ridge High School Student Council would place tangible reminders of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 in the high schools of America, sobering and focusing our educational institutions in this new and dangerous age; and

WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln said that the United States of America is "the last, best hope of the earth," and that if one wanted to see what society would be like tomorrow, one should look at the classrooms of today"; and

WHEREAS, the memorials proposed by the Oak Ridge High School Student Council would unite the past with the future, ensuring that the importance of the terrible events of September 11, 2001 and the resulting conflicts will never be forgotten; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly hereby endorses and supports the concept of the creation of memorials honoring the men and women whose lives were lost during the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on this great Nation, such memorials to be constructed from recovered steel from the World Trade Center remains and erected in participating high schools around this country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly supports the establishment of a charitable fund that would seek and accept contributions from individuals, businesses, civic organizations, churches, and governments, both in the United States of America and abroad, to purchase steel retrieved from the remains of the World Trade Center, as well as other materials that would be needed, to create such memorial displays and accompanying plaques and to transport them to participating high schools around the country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this General Assembly urges the other States of the United States of America and the President and the United States Congress to support this proposal as well.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we applaud the students, Student Council, and faculty of Oak Ridge High School for their outstanding patriotism and well-conceived proposal and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Honorable George E. Pataki, Governor of the State of New York, and the Honorable Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York.